

## **Specialty Courts**

**H.O.P.E. Court: (2004)** Habitual Offender Prevention and Education program. This program was launched in March of 2004, in an effort to reduce arrests among chronic offenders. The original targeted twenty-five participants in this program had been arrested a total of 8,114 times in their combined criminal careers. This program provides intensive supervision and guidance to defendants as they work to make different and better choices for themselves. Most of these defendants are homeless and have a substance related diagnosis. This specialty court is presided over by the Honorable Judge Almase, in Department 3 of the Las Vegas Municipal Court. The program coordinator is Mr. Craig Larson. He can be reached at 702-229-4257.

**DUI Court: (2006)** The Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Court is an intensive supervision program addressing the progression of a person's driving under the influence of alcohol and other substances. This intensive one-year program is for offenders with high blood alcohol levels and /or multiple DUI offenses. This program was launched in April of 2006, and focuses on changing drinking and driving behaviors to save lives. To be considered successful in this program, defendants must agree to participate in the program, exhibit a change in attitude, a change in thinking, and a change in behavior. This specialty court is presided over by the Honorable Judge Roger, in Department 2 of the Las Vegas Municipal Court. The program coordinator is Ms. Marivelle Nunez. She can be reached at 702-229-2337.

**W.I.N. Court (2007)** The Women In Need of change is a very specialized court program. This prostitution prevention program is dedicated to changing the behaviors of those arrested for solicitation. These women have also been identified as having a substance related diagnosis. The women must be at least 18 years old with a primary offense of soliciting, and have no history of violence. Most of the defendants entering the program are homeless, with limited education and very few employable skills. They are required to attend individual and group counseling sessions and are monitored closely by the court. They are tested regularly for compliance to remain drug and alcohol free and receive employment, housing, and education assistance as needed. This specialty court is presided over by the Honorable Judge Leung, in Department 1 of the Las Vegas Municipal Court. The program coordinator is Ms. Debbie Jackson. She can be reached at 702-229-6871.

**Y.O Court: (2010)** The Youthful Offender Court was launched in July of 2010, and is focused towards defendants in the age range of 18 – 24 years old. This program follows an intensive supervision Drug Court model with an emphasis on family treatment. This program mandates frequent court status checks, substance abuse treatment, community service activities, random drug testing, Life Skills classes, homework assignments, and family involvement. This specialty court is presided over by the Honorable Judge Kerns, in Department 5 of the Las Vegas Municipal Court. The program coordinator is Ms. Kimberlea Townsend-LaFasto. She can be reached at 702-229-1895.

**Veteran's Treatment Court: (2007/2014)** The Las Vegas Municipal Court Veterans Court is a hybrid court utilizing the National Association of Drug Courts ten key components as a guideline to provide structure and best practices to veterans with cases in the Las Vegas Municipal Court. The court works in collaboration with the Veterans Administration to identify veterans in the court system and provide them with housing, education, medical, mental health services, drug treatment and other recovery support services. Veteran's Treatment Court became an official specialty court in April of 2014. The men and women who have bravely served our country are sometimes in need of services for anger management, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), substance related issues, as well as other social and economic concerns. This specialty court is presided over by the Honorable Judge Hastings, in Department 6 of the Las Vegas Municipal Court. The program coordinator is Ms. Marivelle Nunez. She can be reached at 702-229-2337.

**Mental Health Court (2014/2015)** The Mental Health Court officially launches September 2, 2015. This program focuses on determining and addressing the needs of defendants that have been identified as mentally ill. The court works in collaboration with appropriate community partners to provide housing, medication stabilization, counseling and resource connection. The goal of this program is to produce fewer arrests and hospitalizations for the participants. This specialty court is presided over by the Honorable Judge Almase, in Department 3 of the Las Vegas Municipal Court. The program coordinator is Ms. Sarah Stern. She can be reached at 702-229-2250.